

# Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA)

## Meeting Minutes

Cooperating Agency Meeting  
October 17, 2018; 0930 – 1530  
In person or Telephone

### In Attendance:

Leanne Correll	Katie Cheesbrough	Mark Conrad
Travis Pardue	Tony Hoch	Jerod Delay
Casey Campbell	Josh Peck	Steve Loose
Brooke Owens	Beth Callaway	Embere Hall

### ACTION ITEMS:

- **No Action Alternative:**
  - Add narrative for WUI.
  - Craft preamble, and include natural disturbance assumptions in Chapter 3.
- **Decision Trigger Table and Appendix:**
  - Continue working on Decision Trigger Table; ECA, BMP, and PDF rows.
  - Roll BMPs into ECA discussion for Stream Health small group.
  - Include Recreation (Hunter Satisfaction and Access) on Pre Implementation Checklist.
- **Cumulative Effects:**
  - Include short list within document, and long table in FEIS Appendix.
- **Monitoring Plan:**
  - Refine model plan from Black Hills by Tuesday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, to present at IDT.
- **Content Analysis:**
  - Schedule future Content Analysis response to comments work day.
- **Next Meeting – November 14<sup>th</sup>.**
  - Agenda to include ECA, Response to Comments, Monitoring Plan.

### AGENDA TOPICS

#### 1) No Action Alternative

##### DISCUSSION

The FS has re-written the No Action Alternative (NAA), based on public comment. The FS used a Small Group (consisting of cooperating agencies and FS staff), IDT input, and FS Steering Group discussions during the revision effort. **Final Outcome:** We will provide narratives outlining 15-year historic averages of vegetation manipulation for a variety of resource areas (e.g., timber sales, Rx, wildlife habitat improvements, etc.). We will use that information to project anticipated management activity over the next 15 years to more accurately describe the LaVA No Action Alternative. Information related to wildfires will be included in Chapter 3 under Analysis Assumptions. We believe this information is relevant to both the NAA and the MPA and is better placed there. Additions to the No Action Alternative include:

- Narrative for WUI projects.
- Preamble to describe the NAA.

## 2) Decision Trigger Table

### DISCUSSION

The Decision Trigger Table continues to be a collaborative work-in-progress. The ECA and BMP rows will be worked on by the Stream Health small group and continue to be refined. Decisions for change include:

- Wildlife Habitat Improvement – 3% of treatment acres will target habitat improvement indicators.
- Vegetation Treatment – More to be discussed by Josh, Tim and Brooke.
- Temporary Road – Going to be looking at GMUG's road tracking tool.
- Recreation – Add a box to the pre implementation checklist for recreation access disturbances. Game and Fish will be looking into potentially adding a LaVA project section to their hunter surveys.

The Final Draft of the Trigger table will be sent out prior to the November 14<sup>th</sup> CA meeting.

## 3) Cumulative Effects

### DISCUSSION

The cumulative effects section has been reworked to be responsive to public comments. The FS has put together a table of timber treatments, fires, and fuel treatments, back to the 1930's, 1950's, and 1990's, respectively, with data from FACTS. A summarized table of this data will be included at the beginning of Chapter 3 in a new cumulative effects section, and a more detailed version could be included as an appendix to the FEIS.

**Concern:** Cumulative Effects acres seem somewhat low, particularly in relation to the MPA. **Explanation:** Projects are addressed in a Cumulative Effects analysis only if they still have an effect on the ground. If full recovery has occurred, that project would not be included in the cumulative effects list.

**NOTE:** Include a call-out box to accompany the summary table, explaining that those treatments that are listed in the table are those that are still having an effect on the ground.

## 4) Monitoring Plan

### DISCUSSION

We are considering adopting and editing the Black Hills (BHRL) project monitoring plan for use with the LaVA project. The monitoring plan would be in addition to the post-treatment monitoring outlined in the Decision Trigger table.

The monitoring example was well-liked by the group and should be useable for LaVA with some minor edits. Cooperating Agencies and Forest Service staff need to review the BHRL Monitoring example and provide feedback to the Forest Service by COB on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## 5) Lynx Determination

### DISCUSSION

Steve Loose gave an overview of the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment, how it is analyzed in the LaVA Project, and how he arrived at his biological determinations. The determinations may change as a result of reanalyzing the No Action Alternative and Cumulative Effects.

## 6) Content Analysis

### DISCUSSION

Enterprise began the content analysis process, and Melissa completed and refined it.

#### **LaVA DEIS Comment Disposition, to Date**

- Reworking the No Action Alternative description;
- Developing Cumulative Effects tables for past, present, reasonably foreseeable actions;
- Developing/reviewing Analysis Assumptions relative to skidding distances and wildfire – adding hydrology assumptions to list;
- Reworked TOAs to include 'Other Management Areas' (yellow) category and added 'no temporary road' layer;
- Developing a Monitoring Plan, based on the BHRL example;
- Edited IRA map to reflect the new TOA categories and potential treatments;
- Editing Decision-trigger Table (still a work in progress) and Appendix A Attachments;
- Reworking AU descriptions in Ch. 3 for consistency;
- No commercial activity in Sheep Mountain;
- No treatment in wildlife security areas in IRAs;
- Providing an Existing Road Layer map; and
- Keeping a running SS of Suggested Edits to augment the FEIS

**Next Steps:** The Content Analysis needs to be reformatted, assignments need to be made for responding, and a strategy needs to be devised for addressing comments in a timely manner.

**Progress to date:** Melissa completed the reformatting and assignment steps on October 19 and will upload the document to the External Pinyon site. The LaVA IDT has agreed that we should pick a day for responding to 'group' comments; that date will be selected once we have finalized all changes to the FEIS.

## 7) Wrap Up

### DISCUSSION

The next regularly scheduled CA meeting falls on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, the day before Thanksgiving. The group decided that November 14<sup>th</sup> would be a better day for the meeting. The agenda will include the ECA and BMP rows, response to comments, and the refined Monitoring Plan.

**Meeting adjourned.**